under the circumstances and with the troops at his disposal, but the representatives of his division urged that he could have put more vigor into the operation and that the men would have followed his orders. Then Stankevich suggested that a military court investigate the case. I agreed on condition that I be called as a witness to testify in the General's defense.[8]

Before dawn Stankevich and I left for Petrograd, to which the War Department had summoned us urgently for consultation. On the way to the station Stankevich tried to brief me on the new friction between the government and the Supreme Commander, but I fell asleep and did not awaken until we reached the capital.

THE MUTINY OF THE SUPREME COMMANDER

From the station, Stankevich drove to the Winter Palace to see Kerensky, and I went to the new headquarters of the Executive Committee. It had been moved, together with the Petrograd Soviet, to the building formerly occupied by the Smolny Institute, a finishing school for girls of the nobility.[9] I asked the guard at the door whether any of the members of the Executive Committee were in the building. A sergeant took me to Chkheidze's office—a large room, white and strangely bare. Its furniture consisted of a dozen white chairs around a small white table. There sat the leaders of the Executive Committee —Chkheidze, Tseretelli, Chernov, Gotz, and others, grim and tired after a sleepness night.

Tseretelli asked me, "When did you leave the army? What is the situation there?"

"I have come directly from the session of the Iskosol at Venden. The regrouping of the army has been completed, the new line . . ."

A Menshevik member of the Committee interrupted me. "That is not what we are interested in. What are Kornilov's forces on the Northern Front?"

"Kornilov's forces? What do you mean?"

"I mean, what forces can Kornilov muster against us and the government?"

"No regiment and no company of the Northern Front will execute Kornilov's order unless it is confirmed by the army committee or by me."

[8] After my testimony the investigation commission cleared the General without presenting the case to the court.

[9] The Tauride Palace did not have sufficient office space for the numerous departments, commissions, and special services of the Executive Committee and the Petrograd Soviet.